(d) what has been the progress in discussions with regard to L.C.A. particularly about purchases of compositefly by wire technology and co-development of such technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The recent visit of RM to USA is expected to lead to a better appreciation of India's security concerns, contribute to improved understanding between the two countries and facilitte mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

(b) The defence cooperation between the two countries is at an initial stage. Exploratory discussions are continuing to step up defence cooperation.

(c) Progress under the on-going LCA programme has been generally satisfactory. Exploratory discussions were held on the possibility of cooperation in Under Water Technology.

(d) In discussions regarding the LCA Programme, clarifications were given in regard to India's aeronautics technology absorption plans via co-development in areas like digital fly-by-wire and the requirement of composites for the LCA was highlighted.

Setting up of an Electronic Telephone manufacturing unit in West Bengal

778. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Chief Minister has urged the Central Government through his letter dated the 22nd June, 1989 to set up an Electronic Telephone manufacturing unit in that state; and

(b) if so, the response of government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes Sir. The request is for a Public Switching Manufacturing Unit.

(b) The matter is receiving attention.

Ban on drugs in Maharashtra

779. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have banned the sale of five drugs in the State as reported in the Indian Express dated 6th May, 1989:

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue a nation wide alert against these drugs:

(c) whether these companies manufacturing those drugs are producing other drugs also; if so, whether all of these drugs are subjected to intensive tests for quality; and

(d) what penel action is being taken against the cmpanies which are playing with the lives of innocent people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQ ALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.